

Study Abroad Fundraising Ideas

Students / Individuals

Send letters to your contacts: friends, relatives, acquaintances, church members, co-workers, etc.

Send letters to everyone you know requesting donations to support your time abroad by describing the benefits of international travel. Ideally this will be done around Christmas time, but it's never too late to ask. Remember, always follow up with a "thank you" card.

- Professional Edge- Employers value work and study abroad experience because it demonstrates that students can interact across cultures, an important skill in our interconnected world. Time abroad can build professional networks, expose students to new career paths, and provide insight into their dream job. Employers seek individuals who have skills gained from studying abroad- adaptability, flexible, creative, cooperative, and innovative.
- Academic Enrichment- Firsthand experiences compliment what is learned in the classroom. Some students find renewed interest in their majors, or may choose a new academic direction. Some are also inspired to complete a semester abroad or to pursue graduate studies abroad.
- Personal Growth- Students return with a new perspective of their own culture and role in the world, will gain self-confidence knowing they can navigate in unfamiliar surroundings, and will acquire a better understanding of personal strengths and weaknesses.

Use your contacts to contact their contacts.

Ask your friend or family member to take your letter to their place of employment to see if any of their colleagues would be willing to donate to your cause. Posting this letter in a breakroom with a donation jar is one way to do this.

Social Media Fundraising

I've had students use things like Facebook to build their own campaigns to solicit donations. All they need to do is send messages through Facebook asking a specific favor: "Rather than going to Subway this week, send (student name) to Ireland!" They can direct their friends/family friends to make deposits directly to their EC account in small denominations (i.e., students will never be able to donate \$100 to a friend, they will always give them \$5).

Trip Pledging

I've had students break their Study Abroad trip into sections, for example, by the site visits and

locations. They assign a cost per site (i.e. \$20 = Kilmainham Gaol), and send something back that describes exactly what they did during that time so donors can "be on site" with the student. Students can send postcards, or, better, personalized videos of that site.

Company/Business Support

I have students approach organizations like Rotary, the Lions Club, or Kiwanis who traditionally financially support student travel. Typically, they ask that the students create certificates showing local support or global volunteering, etc... and then come back a speak at organizational meetings about what they did on the trip. We have at least one or two students who always succeed in this capacity.

Local Newspaper, radio or television station

Pitch ideas that are mutually beneficial, such as writing regular letters to be published in the local paper or offering to do an interview upon returning.

Frequent Flyer Miles

Ask friends and family to donate frequent flyer miles

Photography

If you're a photographer, ask people to pre-pay for photos of people, landscapes, or animals

Yardwork

Ask your friends, family and neighbors if they need any help with the upkeep of their yard

Yard Sale

Host your own sale event and ask that friends and family donate any unwanted item to your sale. Most cities now have yard sale advertising pages on face book that you can use to promote your event.

Travel Grants and Scholarships

I try to push students to look beyond just the posted scholarships like service learning and volunteering opportunities. This one hasn't been terribly productive, but some success here.

Birthday/Holiday Gifts

In lieu of traditional gifts, ask for family to make online payments for you

Offer Classes

Do you have a special talent like singing, dancing, swimming, karate, etc? If so, offer classes or private lessons.

Contact local stores

See if any local business will allow you to put a donation jar in high traffic places

Host a Party

Consider hosting a Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Jamberry, etc party to raise money towards your trip